

**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. HEADING

Date: May 1, 2000

Subject: Monroe Township Groundwater Contamination Site, Williamstown,
Gloucester County, New Jersey

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START	

POLREP NO. 1: (REVISED) - (Initial - covers period from 9/16/99 - 11/26/99).
The previous **POLREP NO. 1**, issued on December 6, 1999, had incorrect dates
for the period (9/16/98 - 11/26/98). The dates have been corrected.

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	MQ
Delivery Order Number:	003 (ERRS Contract No. 68-S2-99-07)
Response Authority:	CERCLA
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
CERCLIS Number:	NJD98079699
Action Memo Status:	Action Memo approved December 6, 1999
Start Date:	September 21, 1999
Demobilization Date:	
Completion Date:	

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA incident category: Area-Wide Groundwater Contamination

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

The Site is located in the town of Williamstown, in the Township of Monroe, and consists of properties which use private wells as a source of potable water. The affected properties are located in three areas identified as the Winslow Road Area (including properties on Winslow Road and Maple Street); the Tuckahoe Road Area (consisting of properties on Tuckahoe Road, Sykes Lane and Glassboro Road) and the Black Horse Pike Area (including properties on Black Horse Pike).

2. Description of Threat

EPA became aware of groundwater contamination of private wells in Monroe Township while evaluating groundwater contamination associated with the Township's municipal supply wells. During EPA's evaluation of these municipal wells, the Agency obtained groundwater sampling data from the Gloucester County Health Department (GCHD), which indicated that certain private wells in the Township were contaminated with PCE. In addition, based on discussions with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), EPA became aware of groundwater contamination problems in the Township that were associated with Mercury.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

In cooperation with both the NJDEP and the GCHD, EPA selected three areas of Monroe in which to perform tap water sampling of private wells. This sampling was performed in order to assess whether the site could be eligible for a removal action, and to determine whether the Site should be proposed for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). These areas were determined based on the locations of previously known elevated concentrations of PCE, and included properties in the areas of the Black Horse Pike, Winslow Road, and the area located in the vicinity of the intersection of Tuckahoe Road with Glassboro Road. The tap water sampling event was performed in July 1999, with approximately 100 homes being sampled. Of these 100 homes, it was found that 29 properties exceeded the federal maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and removal action levels (RALs) for PCE, Benzene, Mercury, Thallium, Copper, and Lead.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

As described above, EPA determined that there were 29 properties at which the tap water exceeded the RALs and MCLs for PCE, Benzene, Mercury, Thallium, Copper, and Lead. A summary of these exceedances is provided in the following table:

Monroe Township Groundwater Contamination Site

MAXIMUM CONCENTRATIONS OF CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN RESIDENTIAL WELLS (ppb)		EPA RAL (ppb)	EPA MCL (ppb)
PCE	1,500	70	5
Benzene	470	100	5
Mercury	19.9	10	2
Copper	3,260	1,300	TT*
Lead	62.6	30	TT*
Thallium	4.0	2	2

* TT - Treatment Technique, as per the Safe Drinking Water Act.

2. Removal Actions to Date

Based upon the September 16, 1999 verbal authorization of the Director of ERRD, EPA initiated bottled water delivery to affected homes and initiated the procurement of a contractor to install point of entry treatment systems.

Additionally, it should be noted that EPA retained the services of a Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor to perform sampling at residences in which elevated concentrations of Lead, Copper, and Thallium were detected, in order to determine the source of these contaminants (i.e., whether the source is the residential plumbing).

3. Enforcement

No Federal enforcement action is in progress at this time. Should a responsible party or parties be identified and be willing to undertake a timely and appropriate removal action, then EPA will evaluate its options with regard to enforcement.

B. Planned Removal Activities

The planned removal activities consist of continuing to provide an alternate water supply (i.e., bottled water) to the 15 properties in the Tuckahoe Road, Winslow Road, and Black Horse Pike areas where the federal MCLs and RALs for Benzene, PCE, and Mercury are exceeded. Also, bottled water will continue to be provided to properties where the MCLs and RALs for Thallium, Lead, and Copper are exceeded, until such time that EPA can determine the sources of this contamination.

Additionally, installation of point of entry treatment systems (POETS) will be performed at the 15 properties with MCL and RAL exceedances for Benzene, PCE, and Mercury. The treatment systems will use GAC for removal of PCE and Benzene, and a bimetallic compound for the removal of Mercury. The systems will be monitored and maintained, including periodic sampling of the water to assure proper functioning.

Through the use of START, EPA will also be performing sampling of additional homes in Williamstown, in order to better refine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination.

C. Next Steps

The next activities include contacting the 15 property owners to schedule a time for installation of the POETS. Once this is accomplished, the OSCs and the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor will mobilize to begin installation of these units.

D. Key Issues

There were no key issues during the reporting period covered by this Pollution Report.

V. COST INFORMATION (to 11/26/99)

COSTS TO DATE (rounded)

ERRS	\$ 10,000
EPA	\$ 3,000
START	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 14,000
Percentage of total project ceiling - 6 %	

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSCs at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSAL OF WASTES

This section is not applicable for the period addressed by this Pollution Report.